

U.S.S.N. 08/398,555

Filed March 3, 1995

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

growth effector molecules,

wherein one end of each tether is covalently linked to the substrate and each growth effector molecule is covalently linked to a distal end of a tether so that the growth effector molecule cannot be internalized by cells attached to the substrate, and the growth effector molecules are attached to the substrate in a concentration effective to enhance the rate of target cell growth without internalization of the molecules; and

maintaining the contacting cells and composition under conditions and for a time sufficient to cause the cells to grow,

wherein the step of bringing into contact comprises administering the composition to a patient in need of cell growth.

Please cancel claims 18-31.

Remarks

Claims 1-32 are pending. Claim 14 has been amended. Claims 1-13 and 14-31 have been canceled. Claim 14 was amended to incorporate the limitations of canceled claim 13, as suggested by the Examiner.

The claims

Claims 14-17 and 32 are directed to methods for enhancing cell growth in a patient or for testing the effect of a compound on tissue that utilize a biocompatible substrate, polymeric tethers, and growth effector molecules. The growth effector molecules are covalently linked to